

## **Summary of the Proficiency Testing Committee Teleconference August 21, 1996**

The Proficiency Testing (PT) Committee met by teleconference on Thursday, August 21, 1997. The meeting was led by PT Committee Chair Ms. Anne Rhyne of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. A list of action items is given in Attachment A. A list of participants is given in Attachment B. An agenda for the teleconference is given in Attachment C.

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The principal purposes of the meeting were to review current plans for the joint meeting with the EPA EMMC in Washington, DC, to be held on September 3, 1997 and to discuss comments from the EMMC dated June 27, 1997. Specific topics of discussion are as follows:*

- !     Meeting with EMMC — Review proposed agenda and goals for the meeting.
- !     Discuss EMMC Comments — Start with roundtable discussion and then follow with specific discussion of EMMC comments dated 6/27/97.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

As new chairperson, Ms. Anne Rhyne welcomed the committee members. She noted that the committee has much work to do. The primary purpose of this call is to prepare for the meeting with the EMMC on September 3, 1997.

Ms. Rhyne stated that the teleconference scheduled for September 4 is canceled and the next teleconference will be September 25, 1997.

As of October 1, 1997, Ms. Andrea Jirka, former chairperson of the PT Committee, will no longer be a member of the committee. She will need to be replaced. It was noted that the committee can only have one EPA person from headquarters and one EPA person from a Region. Since new committee member Lara Autry is from EPA headquarters at Research Triangle Park, any new member from the EPA must be from a Region. A sign up sheet was made available at the NELAC meeting in July for those interested in joining the PT Committee; Ms. Rhyne will ask Jeanne Mourrain for a copy of this sign up sheet.

### **COMMENTS ON THE CHAPTER AND APPENDICES**

It was noted that comments on Chapter 2 and appendices have been received since the NELAC meeting in July. These comments from the Department of Defense, the International Standards Organization (ISO), and others will be sent out prior to the teleconference of September 25,

1997.

## **NEW APPENDICES**

It was noted that the new appendices in preparation and other appendices still to be started need to be fully drafted as soon as possible. The next interim meeting of NELAC is tentatively scheduled for early December. Drafts of any new appendices will need to be submitted for placement on the web site by early November which means complete first drafts must be completed by early October. Several members of the committee stated that it would be possible to meet these deadlines if responding to the EMMC comments after the joint meeting of September 3 does not require too much effort and time. It was also noted that completion of some of the appendices depend upon comments from the EMMC to be discussed at the joint meeting.

It was noted that the documents being developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as the PTOB will also have to be reviewed by the PT Committee. Resolution of and response to EMMC issues and also review and response to NIST/PTOB issues will leave little time between now and December for working on new appendices. Ms. Rhyne noted that new appendices may have to be put on hold until the EMMC and NIST/PTOB issues are resolved.

## **PLANNING JOINT MEETING WITH EPA EMMC**

Ms. Rhyne will contact Ms. Jan Jablonski of the EMMC to prepare an agenda for the joint meeting which is to be held in Conference Rooms 1-2 in the Reagan Building from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ms. Rhyne noted that Ms. Jablonski had stated she was not aware of any additional comments from the EMMC other than those of June 27, 1997.

Concern was expressed about revisiting topics that were already covered at the NELAC conference in Dallas. It was suggested that Ms. Jablonski provide a list of items that still need to be discussed. Mr. Chuck Wibby stated that he had reviewed the comments from EMMC and had identified topics already covered. Ms. Rhyne will forward a list of these particular items to Ms. Jablonski.

A possible agenda was developed. Proposed items are:

- Ms. Jablonski opens the meeting,
- Ms. Rhyne introduces the PT Committee's goals in the development of Chapter 2,
- EMMC presents their philosophy,
- EMMC presents their major concerns and questions, and

- Questions and concerns are addressed one by one.

Ms. Andrea Jirka will ask Ms. Jeanne Mourrain about having someone at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting review the partnership rules of NELAC that describe the interrelationships of the States, the EPA, other Federal agencies and the private sector.

It was noted that changes to the Chapter and appendices should be kept to a minimum since all changes will need to be approved at the next NELAC meeting.

A poll was taken and PT Committee members planning to attend the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting include: Breuer, Caruso, Coyner, Parker, Rhyne, Wibby, and Piechocki. Raiford, Autry, and Jirka will not attend. Gutknecht of RTI will be present to take minutes.

## **ROLE OF NIST**

Ms. Reenie Parris of NIST stated that discussion is underway at NIST about the PTOB infrastructure, and some the challenges presented by this role, including dealing with small batches of proficiency testing materials. She noted that NIST will not have the resources to develop the infrastructure to deal with all types of samples before January, 1999. Currently NIST is only considering WP, WS and DMRQA materials. It was noted by a member of the PT Committee that WS and WP have not been used by the EPA for accreditation previously. It was further noted that there have been past problems with WS and WP. The nature of these problems will need to be considered when WS and WP are used for accreditation of laboratories on a national scale.

Ms. Parris said that NIST is looking for an expanded list of potential analytes. A PT Committee member responded that the PT Committee did not want to get into this level of detail. Someone suggested that useful lists could be found in 40 CFR Parts 141 and 136.

## **FIELD OF TESTING**

Ms. Jirka noted that the term “field of testing” is causing confusion and misunderstanding. She stated that it would be to our advantage to replace this term with another. Several possibilities were put on table including:

- program/matrix/analyte or “PMA”
- reportable result
- analytical parameter
- scope of proficiency

There was general agreement among committee members that the term should be changed. It was also noted that field of testing cannot be simply be replaced with PMA in some sections of the chapter and appendices. Mr. Coyner will revise the document by changing the references to “field of testing” to “program/matrix/analyte (PMA)”

**Attachment A**

**ACTION ITEMS  
Proficiency Testing Committee  
August 21, 1997**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
1	Ms. Rhyne develops agenda for September 3rd meeting with Ms. Jablonski.	
2	Ms. Jirka asks Ms. Mourrain about reviewing partnership structure of NELAC at the September 3rd meeting.	
3	Mr. Coyner replaces the term “field of testing” with “program/matrix/analyte (PMA)” in Chapter 2 and appendices as appropriate.	
4	Mr. Rhyne e-mails list of appendices to Ms. Parris.	

**Attachment B**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
Proficiency Testing Committee  
August 21, 1997**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Phone Numbers</b>
Anne Rhyne, chair	TX Natural Resrc. Conserv. Comm.	T: (512) 239-1291 F: (512) 239-2550 E: arhyne@tnrcc.state.tx.us
Dr. George Breuer	State Hygienic Laboratory (IA)	T: (319) 335-4500 F: (319) 335-4600 E: gbreuer@uhl.uiowa.edu
Matt Caruso	NY State Dept. of Health	T: (518) 485-5570 F: (518) 485-5568 E: caruso@wadsworth.org
Tom Coyner	Analytical Products Group	T: (614) 423-4200 F: (614) 423-5588 E: apg@citynet.net
Andrea Jirka	USEPA Region 7, ESD	T: (913) 551-5091 F: (913) 551-5218 E: jirka.andrea@epamail.epa.gov
Dr. Faust Parker (absent)	Espey, Huston, & Assoc., Inc.	T: (713) 977-1500 F: (713) 977-9233
Dale Piechocki	Environmental Health Laboratory	T: (219) 233-4777
Chuck Wibby	Env. Resource Associates	T: (303) 431-8454 F: (303) 421-0159 E: qcstds@aol.com
Lara Autry (absent)	EPA Emission Measurement Center	T: (919) 541-5544 F: (919) 541-1039 E: autry.lara@epamail.epa.gov
Darlene Raiford	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	T: (757) 460-4217 F: (757) 460-6586 E: draiford@hrs.dst.va.us
Reenie Parris	National Institute for Standards and Technology	T: (301) 975-3103 F: (301) 977-0685 E: Reenie.Parris@nist.gov

PT CONFERENCE CALL AGENDA

Thursday, August 21, 1997: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. EDT  
(202) 260-8330

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1. Any Old Business -
2. Status of New Appendices: Air, Radiation, Biology, Microbiology - (Anne)
3. PT / EMMC Mtg.- 9/3/97 in Washington, D.C.
  - A. Agenda for this meeting
  - B. Goals to Accomplish
4. Discuss the EMMC comments dated 6/27/97
  - A. Roundtable discussion-- general comments on document
  - B. Specific discussion-- section by section
5. Summary and Actions